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**O**UR people are vigorously marching on the path of victory. The nearer our victory, the more difficulties we shall meet. But decidedly we are not afraid of sacrifices and hardships. For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, we are resolved to fight till complete victory.

Our heroic compatriots and fighters of South Vietnam, united as one man, fighting well and producing well, are an invincible force.

Our country is one, our nation is one. The people of the South and the North are determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. The 17 million people of the North are resolved to live up to their pledge to fight side by side with their 14 million blood-sealed South Vietnam compatriots in order to liberate the South and defend the North with a view to the reunification of the Fatherland.

*President Ho Chi Minh's letter to Lawyer Nguyen Hau Tho, President of the Presidium, and the members of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam N.F.L.*

# VIETNAM COURIER

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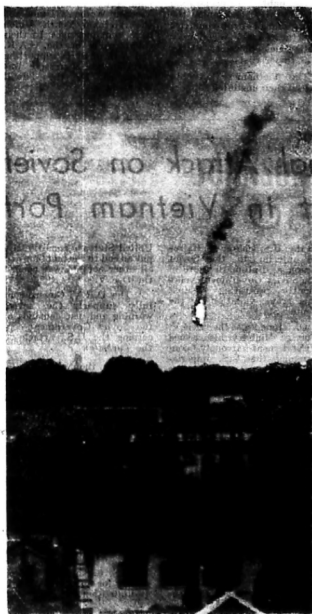
## NORTH VIETNAM

# THE 2000<sup>th</sup> U.S. PLANE WAS DOWNED on June 5, 1967

## FIASCO OF U.S. AGGRESSION

## D.R.V. GREAT SUCCESSSES IN ALL FIELDS

COMMUNIQUE OF THE V.P.A. HIGH COMMAND  
ON JUNE 6, 1967



U.S. plane downed over Hanoi

**T**O extricate themselves from their losing position in South Vietnam, and in an attempt to use bombs and bullets to bring our people to their knees, for over two years now the U.S. imperialists have been recklessly widening their war of aggression, bringing in a U.S. expeditionary army to wage a local war in South Vietnam, and using air and naval forces to attack North Vietnam.

In face of this situation, the armed forces and people in the two zones of our country, in close co-ordination with each other, have fought with sublime heroism, and won extremely glorious victories.

The heroic armed forces and people of South Vietnam have won glorious victories in defeating the very important first stage of the U.S. imperialists' local war. Particularly in the Winter-Spring of 1966-1967, our compatriots and Liberation Armed Forces in South Vietnam have won great victories, defeated the second "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" of the U.S. aggressors, with over one million U.S. puppet and satellite troops at their disposal.

The valiant armed forces and people of North Vietnam have gloriously defeated the U.S. aggressors' war of destruction in its fundamental schemes, won splendid victories. So far they have shot down 2,000 U.S. planes, killed or captured thousands of U.S. air pirates, sunk or damaged 70 U.S. warships and U.S. puppet commando boats.

The victories of our armed forces and people in over two years of fighting against the U.S. war of destruction in North Vietnam were extremely great and all-sided victories. This is also an extremely great and all-sided failure of the U.S. aggressors.

By attacking North Vietnam, the U.S. imperialists hope to intimidate our people

and shake their determination to resist the U.S. aggressors and save their country. But the U.S. aggressors have failed. The more they fight, the more victories our armed forces and people in both zones have won, the higher their determination has become, the firmer their will, the greater their strength, and the stouter their position.

By attacking North Vietnam, the U.S. aggressors hope to be able to destroy the socialist construction of our people and prevent the North Vietnamese people from supporting their blood-sealed compatriots in the South. However, our armed forces and people, united like one man, have resolutely

(Continued page 6)

## An Article by TRUONG SON

Authoritative military commentator of the  
South Vietnam N.F.L.

See Supplement

# PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MESSAGES TO THE PRESIDENTS OF THE U. A. R. AND A. R. OF SYRIA

His Excellency President GAMAL ABDEL NASSER,  
United Arab Republic — Cairo

His Excellency President NOUREDDIN ATASSI  
Arab Republic of Syria — Damascus

THE Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are highly indignant at the action of the Israeli reactionaries, agents of the U.S. and British imperialists, in bombing Cairo and other cities and attacking with ground forces many places of the United Arab Republic.

This constitutes an impudent act of aggression against the United Arab Republic; it seriously jeopardizes peace in the Middle and Near East and grossly tramples upon international law.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam strongly condemns this act of aggression of the Israeli reactionaries instigated and helped by the imperialists, and firmly demands that they stop it forthwith.

The fight of the United Arab Republic for its independence and sovereignty, the legitimate rights of the Arab people and peace in the Middle and Near East is a cause radiating justice. It is sure to enjoy deep sympathy and strong support from the Asian and African peoples and all peace- and justice-loving countries in the world.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam declares full solidarity with the Government and people of the United Arab Republic fighting against Israeli aggression. In face of the united struggle of the Arab people, all aggressive schemes and acts of the U.S. and British imperialists and their agents are doomed to ignominious defeat.

On this occasion, I wish to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations on victory and through you, I warmly hail the army and people of the United Arab Republic, who have put up a valiant fight and duly punished the Israeli aggressors.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

HO CHI MINH  
President of the Democratic Republic  
of Vietnam

THE Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are highly indignant at the military attack launched by the Israeli reactionaries, agents of the U.S. and British imperialists, against the territory of the Arab Republic of Syria.

This is an impudent act of aggression against the Arab Republic of Syria; it seriously jeopardizes peace in the Middle and Near East and most grossly trample upon international law.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam strongly condemns this act of aggression of the Israeli reactionaries instigated and helped by the imperialists, and firmly demands that they stop it forthwith.

The Syrian people's justice-radiating fight to defend their independence, sovereignty and social progress, to safeguard the legitimate rights of the Arab people and to preserve peace in the Middle and Near East, is sure to enjoy strong support from the Asian and African peoples and peace- and justice-loving countries in the world.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam are following this just struggle with deep sympathy and full solidarity with the Syrian Government and people.

In face of the united struggle of the Arab people all aggressive schemes and acts of the imperialists and their agents against the Arab Republic of Syria are doomed to ignominious defeat.

On this occasion, I wish to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations on victory and through you, I warmly hail the army and people of the Arab Republic of Syria, who have put up a valiant fight and duly punished the Israeli aggressors.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

HO CHI MINH  
President of the Democratic Republic  
of Vietnam

## N.F.I.'s Statement on Cambodian Borders May 31, 1967)

BASING itself on the splendid development of friendly relations of good neighborliness and brotherhood between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples on the basis of the five principles of peaceful co-existence, namely: respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity; non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.

Basing itself on the present situation when the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in Saigon and Bangkok are openly demanding to change Cambodia's present borders and repeatedly threatening the independence, sovereignty, neutrality and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Responding to the May 9, 1967 communiqué of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia which called on all countries to respect the territorial integrity of

Cambodia in her present borders, the Central Committee of the North Vietnam National Front for Liberation solemnly declares:

1. That it is the unwavering stance of the Front to recognize and undertake to respect the territorial integrity of Cambodia in her present borders.

2. To recognize and undertake to respect the present border between South Vietnam and Cambodia; and

3. Strongly condemns the schemes and acts of aggression of the U.S. imperialists and their henchmen in South Vietnam and Thailand against the Kingdom of Cambodia; resolutely protests against all their plots to change the present borders of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

The policy of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation Central Committee concerning the borders of Cambodia like its overall policy towards the Kingdom of Cambodia conforms to the

immediate interests of the two peoples in their struggle against the U.S. imperialists to defend their country's sacred national rights, as well as to the long-term interests of the two peoples in building their life in all fields according to their will. This policy is a valuable contribution to the cause of safeguarding peace and security in this area.

## Israeli Aggression Against Arab Countries Condemned by Vietnamese People

ON June 6, 1967 the Vietnam Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee of the Vietnamese People's Committee made public a declaration energetically condemning the aggression of Arab countries by the Israeli reactionaries, placemen of the U.S. imperialists.

The Vietnamese people voiced their unstinted support

to the just struggle of the Arab countries to safeguard their independence and territorial integrity.

On this occasion, the Vietnam T.U. Federation, the Vietnamese Women's Union and the Vietnamese Youth League have sent messages to their counterparts in the U.A.R. and A.R. in which they support them in the aggressive war unleashed by the Israeli reactionaries.

## U. S. Criminal Attack on Soviet Cargo Boat in Vietnam Port

ON June 2, 1967 American planes attacked the Soviet collier *Turkistan* which was loading coal at Cam Pha port, Quang Ninh province. They rained down bombs and machine gun fire on the ship, killing an electrician engineer, Nicolai Nikitin Rybchuk, and wounding a number of sailors. The crew and the chimney of the boat were worst hit.

The Yankee aggressors have so far strafed time and again foreign merchant ships calling at North Vietnam ports. The recent attacks on the *Turkistan* is a most impudent act of the U.S. imperialists against foreign ships trading with the D.R.V. It is a gross violation of international law, freedom of commerce and navigation of all countries, and a very serious provocation against the U.S.S.R. and the freedom and justice-loving world throughout the world.

On June 3, Soviet Foreign Minister A. Gromyko handed

to the U.S. charge d'affaires at interim to the Soviet Union a diplomatic note of the Soviet Government vehemently protesting against this grave violation by the United States.

On June 3, the D.R.V. Foreign Ministry also issued a statement strongly condemning on the U.S. imperialists' war act against the Soviet ship. The statement reads among other things:

"The U.S. predatory act against the Soviet ship *Turkistan* constitutes an arrogant violation of the sovereignty of all countries, and an encroachment on the freedom of commerce and navigation of all countries, and a very serious provocation against the U.S.S.R. This act has all the more aroused the indignation of public opinion and international navigation circles."

"The D.R.V. Government strongly condemns the afore-said war act of the United States and demands that the

United States unconditionally put an end to the bombing and all other acts of war against the Soviet ship *Turkistan*.

"The D.R.V. Government fully supports the severe warning and just demands of the Soviet Government concerning the U.S. attack against the *Turkistan*."

As in their attacks on other merchant ships, the American aggressors have flatly denied their piratical act, alleging that the *Turkistan* was hit by shell fire from the D.R.V. anti-aircraft batteries. However, this quibble of the U.S. imperialists in an attempt to evade the responsibility for their predatory act, can only heighten world people's indignation and condemnation.

On June 5, 1967 the Soviet Government handed to the U.S. embassy in Moscow a second diplomatic note firmly urging the U.S. to shirk its responsibility for an obviously premeditated act.

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S LETTER to President Nguyen Huu Tho, and the members of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam N.F.L.

Dear President and members of the Central Committee,  
Dear compatriots, cadres and fighters

In the previous Winter-Spring, our compatriots and the Liberation Army Forces in South Vietnam had won great victories. In the recent Winter-Spring, you won still greater victories which greatly re-people throughout the country, our friends in all the five continents and me personally.

I wish to convey to all our blood-soaked compatriots of all nationalities, and the officers and men of the Liberation Army Forces, old people, women, youth and children of South Vietnam, my best greetings and warmest congratulations.

I send my best regards to the war martyrs' families and the wounded and sick army-men.

In the recent Winter-Spring, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys threw the battlefield more than one million troops with twice or three times as many planes, cannons, bombs and bullets as in the previous Winter-Spring.

They even used toxic chemicals and poison gas to ravage our country and massacre our people in an attempt to bring our compatriots in South Vietnam to their knees and save themselves from their critical situation.

However, under the clearheaded leadership of the National Front for Liberation, our South Vietnam compatriots and fighters, united millions as one man and fighting very heroically, defeated the second dry season counter-offensive of the U.S. aggressors and won glorious victory.

This is a victory of great strategic significance both militarily and politically. It is a victory of our entire people against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Our South Vietnam compatriots have recorded big victories. So have our compatriots in the North. In the North, nearly 2,000 aircraft of the U.S. aggressors have been shot down, and numerous U.S. air pilots have been captured or killed. In the South and the North of our country have fought well and won greater victories and become stronger as they fight.

The enemy has sustained heavy defeats. However, he remains stubborn. He will bring in more troops, use more savage methods and continues to intensify his aggressive war in the South and attack the North more viciously. He will also use new devilish tricks about "peace negotiations" in an attempt to deceive public opinion in the United States and the world, but no matter how many hundreds of thousands of additional troops they may bring in and how savage and cunning they may be, the U.S. aggressors can in no way get out of their passiveness and quagmire in South Vietnam. The more they fight, the more ignominious setbacks they will suffer.

Our people are vigorously marching on the path of victory. The nearer our victory, the more difficulties we shall meet. But decidedly we are not afraid of sacrifices and hardships. For the independence and freedom of the Fatherland, we are resolved to fight till complete victory.

Our heroic compatriots and fighters of South Vietnam, united as one man, fighting well and producing well, are an invincible force.

Our country is one, our nation is one. The people of the South and the North are determined to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors. The 17 million people of the North are resolved to live up to their pledge to fight side by side with their 14 million blood-soaked South Vietnam compatriots in order to liberate the South and defend the North with a view to the reunification of the Fatherland.

Our people's war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, enjoys the warm sympathy and support of the peoples of the Central Committee, our friends and the progressive people all over the world including the progressive people in the U.S.

Our compatriots and fighters of South Vietnam, march forward heroically to record still more glorious achievements and feats of arms!

U.S. imperialism will certainly be defeated! Our people will certainly be victorious!

HO CHI MINH

(Continued from page 8)

Before public opinion in the United States and the world, Johnson has come out as an utter lackey of the politician ruling over the country thanks to bribery and deceit. Hinting at American people's attitude toward the boss of their government, the French paper *Le Nouvel Observateur* on January 11, 1967 said: "They no longer believe in Johnson the skilful man but Johnson the liar. One wonders with anxiety why they do not believe in his lies."

After another dry season of bitter defeat, Johnson cannot cover up all his perplexity. To end the war in his hands, he has resorted to the most strenuous efforts. In his position as President, he often vaunted that he had three taps: tap for troops, tap for dollars and tap for weapons. "Which one will win any time he likes. And how is the situation at present?"

He has mobilized directly or indirectly for the Vietnam war 75 percent of ground forces, 60 percent of naval forces, 40 percent of naval forces, 8 infantry divisions among the 10 divisions in the whole of the

## JOHNSON'S PERPLEXITY AFTER A DRY SEASON OF BITTER FAILURE

U.S.A. and half of the marine divisions have been thrown onto this small threshold. But the anti-guerrilla war there has ungilded so many men that the effectiveness proved to be never sufficient. Formerly Westmoreland said that with 150,000 troops the U.S. would win. But 200,000 troops were defeated in the first dry season "counter-offensive". Over 400,000 sustained more stinging failure in the second dry season "counter-offensive". At present, if the troops of the U.S. Fleet and the other U.S. bases in South-East Asia directly involved in the war are added, the effectiveness would run to about 600,000 men. But the warlords still are unable to know how many troops they will need and where to find them.

Johnson's military budget for the second dry season (88 billion). The Pentagon has to save dollar by dollar, close down many military bases. The budget earmarked for the "great society" program has been cut a substantial part. Johnson's tap for dollars has begun to be exhausted. The U.S. congressmen had reckoned that to kill one Viet Cong it needs 300,000, 350,000 or 400,000 dollars.

As for weapons, all the most up-to-date arms in the United States except atomic bomb, have been used in Vietnam. Nevertheless, some of these weapons have been

another. It is now the stage when the war machine is done drop by drop.

The annual budget devoted to the Vietnam war has now reached approximately 30 billion dollars. Due to this war, the U.S. national defense budget has been brought to 77.5 billion dollars, more than the biggest military budget during World War II (44 billion), and nearly equals the biggest military budget during World War II (88 billion). The Pentagon has to save dollar by dollar, close down many military bases. The budget earmarked for the "great society" program has been cut a substantial part. Johnson's tap for dollars has begun to be exhausted. The U.S. congressmen had reckoned that to kill one Viet Cong it needs 300,000, 350,000 or 400,000 dollars.

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## TOWARDS BIGGER AND MORE GLORIOUS VICTORIES

IN mid-May 1967, the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation held an enlarged session under the chairmanship of its President Nguyen Huu Tho to assess the results achieved by the South Vietnamese people and army in Winter 1966-Spring 1967.

The conference unanimously held that at the beginning of Winter 1966-Spring 1967 the U.S. imperialists had made tremendous efforts to carry out their strategic plan of a two-pronged campaign but to no avail.

In the military field according to still incomplete data, the South Vietnamese people and armed forces put out of action 15,000 U.S. aggressors, 15,000 South Korean, Australian, New Zealand and Filipino mercenaries, and down or destroyed on the ground 1,300 aircraft; destroyed 1,785 armored cars and 2,200 other military vehicles; sank 100 U.S. river craft; destroyed 340 artillery pieces; razed to the ground 200 military posts; annihilated 6 military subsectors; and blew up 270 bridges.

The Liberation and National Front for complete initiative in the field.

For the other prong, "rural pacification", the enemy had important means at its disposal: 90% of puppet effective, a large number of American and satellite units, 40,000 "pacification cadres", hundreds of millions of dollars, and hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs, am-

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munition and toxic chemicals. But this did not save them from defeat. According to still incomplete figures, about 5,000 "pacification cadres" were sent out of action and about a thousand others deserted.

In this second year of the "local war", political struggle and persuasion work in the enemy ranks have taken on new characteristics.

Political struggles are mostly directed against "rural pacification". Our compatriots have resolutely opposed the enemy's propaganda, called for their hands and struggled against all attempts at massacre and destruction.

Direct political struggles against American and satellite troops have become more frequent.

The people of town and countryside have co-ordinated their efforts against the American aggressors and their Saigon lackeys. In the towns and cities, a broad front of struggle against the aggressors has taken shape. In various forms and with various methods, the movement has developed in depth and the role played by the people has become ever more consolidated.

Desertion has increased in the puppet army, as a result of the people's persuasion work. Johnson has now to arm his puppet military forces. In South Vietnam 15,700 puppet soldiers deserted.

(Continued page 6)

thirty attendants that Johnson was acting. He exaggerated his war run by rung and has reached the highest point. The American paper *Time* was right to say on May 10 that in whatever words Johnson has now to doubt about the effectiveness of his policy of escalation in Vietnam. What can he further do? Of course, as a war monger, he would be rash enough to make new escalation though this would be his last step before he sinks into the abyss of an irredeemable failure.

Meanwhile, he has become the most isolated man at the White House. The list of those who have left the White House and the U.S. congress who oppose his policy keeps on lengthening. The movement against the Vietnam war among the American people is surging ever higher during Spring and Summer when the U.S. enters its second dry season "counter-offensive" in South Vietnam ended in a bitter failure.

Damage caused by U.S. planes to Soviet Cargo Boat *Turkistan*

## PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH CONGRATULATES NORTH VIETNAM PEOPLE

Dear compatriots and officers and soldiers of the people's armed forces,

The U.S. aggressors have recklessly launched a war of destruction against the North of our country in an attempt to extricate themselves from their losing position in the South. But they have sustained heavy defeats.

So far, the armed forces and people of North Vietnam have brought down more than 2,000 U.S. aircraft, killed or captured numerous U.S. air pirates, sunk or damaged many U.S. warships and dealt the U.S. military south of the demarcation line a well-deserved punishing blow.

Big achievements have also been recorded in communication and transport, agricultural production, industry and other branches.

Whatever amount of bombs and bullets the U.S. aggressors may pour on our country, they cannot check the powerful advance of our people, split the solidarity between the blood-sold North and South. The ardent patriotism and heroism of our nation, the determination of our people to defeat the U.S. aggressors is rising higher than ever before.

The victories of our people throughout the country in the past two years are very great and all-sided victories.

When the U.S. aggressors attacked the North once our compatriots and Liberation Armed Forces in the South dealt them blows five or even ten times heavier. During the recent Winter-Spring, the South has won very glorious victories by defeating the second "dry-season strategic counter-offensive" of the U.S. aggressors.

Thus, both the North and the South have fought well and won great victories.

On behalf of the Party's Central Committee and Government, I am glad to convey my warm congratulations to our people's officers, soldiers and people of all localities and nationalities throughout North Vietnam.

Our people's armed forces are very heroic, and the more they fight, the greater victories they win.

Our people are very heroic: the aged, children, women and young people are realizing their sacred duty to resist the U.S. aggressors and save the country, to produce well and fight well.

On this occasion, I send my affectionate regards to the war martyrs' families and to the people of all localities and nationalities and compatriots victims of enemy bombs and shells.

On behalf of the Vietnamese people, the Party and Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, I express sincere gratitude to the fraternal socialist countries, the friendly countries and the progressive people in the world including the American progressive people for their warm sympathy and support for our people's resistance war against the U.S. aggressors and for national salvation.

Dear compatriots and fighters,

The U.S. aggressors have sustained heavy defeats, yet they are stubborn and reluctant to give up their dark aggressive design towards our country. In face of the great unity of our people in both North and South Vietnam to carry out the resistance war, they will certainly not have any doubts and certainly will not escape complete failure.

I wish to recommend you, compatriots, officers and soldiers of the armed forces to tighten the ties of self-claspency over victories and underestimate the enemy. We must always heighten our vigilance and shatter all menacing and cruel schemes and manoeuvres of the U.S. aggressors.

We must make still greater efforts in production work and fight still harder. We must improve further the people's anti-aircraft work. In the immediate future, when carrying on the fighting, we must wisely bring in the summer rice, achieve a good planting of autumn rice and actively prepare for winter rice cultivation, endeavor to perfect the dikes, ensure good communication and transport, and serve the front.

Our people's resistance war against the U.S. aggressors and for national salvation has recorded glorious victories.

Our people and armed forces fearing no sacrifices nor hardships, are resolved to fight for independence, freedom and the reunification of their Fatherland, thus making an active contribution to the cause of national independence and the defence of peace in the world.

Let our armed forces and people march forward heroically!

All for a victorious fight against the U.S. aggressors!

Hanoi, June 8, 1967  
HO CHI MINH

# 2,000 U.S. PLANES DOWNED OVER NORTH VIETNAM, GREAT SUCCESSSES IN ALL FIELDS

NORTH Vietnam has been waging a wonderful people's war against the war of destruction by the U.S. aggressors. The ground-to-air war conducted by our people for over two years now, is unprecedented in history, both in form and in scope. During the last 28 months, we have fought valiantly and persistently against the mighty, modern air force of the U.S. Hundreds of planes from 13 out of the total 17 aircraft carriers of the U.S. armed forces and from bases in South Vietnam and Thailand have been dispatched daily on strike missions over North Vietnam. By a show of their air power, the Americans hope to browbeat our people. They have committed to the Vietnam war 4,500 planes, or more than one-fourth of the total U.S. imperialism has at its disposal, 9 times more than the total number of planes the French colonialists put into action on the whole of the Indochinese battlefield formerly, and more than double the number of planes used by the U.S. aggressors in the Korean war. They have introduced into Vietnam 38 per cent of the total tactical air squadrons of the U.S. armed forces. Their aircraft are of the most modern and costliest types, mostly jets used in war for the first time. They have also widely used their latest electronic techniques in this brutal war.

U.S. savagery has also outdone the Hitlerite fascists by far. The aggressors regard our country as a testing ground for their means of killing. On North Vietnam's territory, so small as it is, they drop a monthly average of 77,000 tons of bombs.

They estimated that North Vietnam could not stand up to their war of destruction, even for 3 weeks. They thought that their superionic aircraft, bombs and shells could destroy our economic and defence potentials, prevent North Vietnam's assistance to the South and shake our people's determination to fight and to win, thus making it possible for them to extricate themselves from their quagmire in South Vietnam. Yet, their calculations have proved utterly wrong. The armed forces and people of North Vietnam, for the sake of their sacred cause of defending the North, liberating the South and reunifying the country, have fought valiantly and won glorious victories. Their baptism of fire and first test of strength on August 5, 1964 manifestly show their possibility of winning victory. The enemy finds its strength in iron and steel. We have our great political and moral strength—the source of all strength.

We have fought relentlessly for nearly two weeks and brought down 2,000 U.S. pirate planes. The U.S. imperialists have sent out on a large-scale their up-to-date air force, which they boast is the most powerful in the world, to the country, but the air marauders have been duly punished.

The more they lose in the South, the more they escalate in the North. But the further the escalation, the heavier the fall. The savage attacks on Hanoi, Haiphong and other residential areas of North Vietnam have resulted in still heavier defeats for the aggressors. 2,000 of their modern planes of different types have been downed. This figure (representing only the downed planes that could be checked, not including an important number of planes hit and damaged) is 4 times the total planes possessed by the 7th Fleet, double West Germany's plane total and bigger than France's present air strength. 2,000 U.S. planes of more than 40 latest types described as "latest discoveries of air technology" and "military secret" have been shattered to smithereens. The U.S. aggressors themselves have admitted that they have lost over our country more than half of their F-105 Thunderchiefs. The more modern their means of war are, the heavier their losses will be. A U.S. F-86 used in the Korean war cost \$40,000 dollars, while an F-4C now in use in Vietnam costs \$20 million dollars. Pilot cannibalism is a big loss for the U.S. The training cost for every Vietnam-bound pilot amounts to 775,000 dollars. The U.S. magazine *Newsweek* on May 15, 1967, revealed, though the figures are far below the truth, that "the U.S. has already spent an estimated 3.8 billion dollars on the air war over the North," in terms of military hardware. The U.S. has already lost 2.5 billion dollars worth of aircraft in the North and has "dropped 1.5 billion dollars' worth of ordnance there." But what discourages the U.S. superimperialists most is the lengthening of the war, the loss of well trained and well experienced pilots

either surrender or bomb- to the Stone Age. Over two years have elapsed during which 2,000 U.S. planes have been downed in 17th months. That is why, on a number of public figures in the United States have to admit frankly and unambiguously that the air war has been ineffective. In fact the U.S. bomb and bullet rain has failed to soften North Vietnam (Robert McNamara and instead, the air raids have hardened the determination of the North Vietnam government and people Robert

from captains to colonels being killed or captured.

U.S. air power is being put to a serious trial. The total number of military planes used by the U.S. in a whole year can hardly fill the gap caused by plane losses over North Vietnam. The U.S. aggressors have now to scrape up any pilots they can find to send to Vietnam, even those who have retired or are doing research jobs. They have even shortened the training time, and are throwing in the battlefield more and more hastily trained pilots. Compared with the early days of the war, the fighting power of the U.S. air force has declined rapidly. According to *UPI* of Feb. 4, 1967, the shortage of pilots was so serious that the U.S. even thought of dispatching a pilot with an amputated limb to Vietnam. Marshall Johnson, former head of the U.S. Army Military Institute, lettered on May 8, 1967 that "U.S. plane losses over Vietnam are unimaginable".

By their extraordinarily valiant fight, the armed forces and people of North Vietnam have reduced the strategic schemes for the U.S. war of destruction to bankruptcy. Our combat strength has increased very quickly and made giant strides forward. Our various armed services and branches have developed to an unprecedented high degree. Fighting side by side with hundreds of thousands of good shots armed with infantry weapons are A-A, missile, air force, navy, artillery engineering, radar, signal, transport and other units which have always come out victorious. With A-A batteries as the core, our flak is so intense and effective that it strikes fear into the enemy's heart.

Our young armed forces have performed outstanding feats of arms. We have at our disposal new kinds of equipment and weapons and our wealth of experiences has enriched with every passing day.

The U.S. aggressors are attacking us round-the-clock, but in all the four seasons of the year, our could remain open, our vehicles keep running and people continue moving. The London *Times* of September 9, 1966 acknowledged that "military speaking, the U.S. is not winning the air war over North Vietnam. The latter's ability to repair its lines of communications seems to outdistance the American ability to destroy roads, railways and bridges". On the communication and transport front, we have worked marvellous. The heroism and creativeness of our communication and transport troops are really wonderful, and their achievements will go down forever in the annals.

Kennedy), and far from returning to the Stone Age, the D.R.V. economy has leapt on developing vigorously.

GREAT economic developments of the D.R.V. over the past two years.

No strain was noted in the requirements of the war. The prices of staple commodities were maintained and the everyday needs of the people catered for. There

U.S. bombs and shells have failed to destroy South Vietnam's socialist economy. In implementation of our party's policy of reorienting our economic construction to adapt it to wartime conditions, our people are fighting while stepping up production. Despite enemy destruction, our agriculture continues to make steady progress. Relying on their collective strength, our peasants fill up bomb craters and plant rice in straight rows. Our fields continue to be put under intensive farming, the material and technical foundations are being strengthened daily, new methods of work are being applied widely and new relations of production further consolidated. In war, our regional industry has expanded all over the country, and with new vigor, is not only more and more amply satisfying the needs of the war, but also opening up new vistas for the development of our socialist industry in the future. Giving full play to its vanguard role, our working class is producing while fighting, devising a thousand and one ways to turn out products in all circumstances.

Culture and education continue to develop. Social order and security are firmly maintained. The political and moral cohesion among our people is solidly strengthened. For the sake of the resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, hundreds of thousands of people have evacuated from cities and towns. Even in areas where fighting is very fierce, such as Vinh Linh and Quang Binh, our peasants have brought in bumper rice and subsidiary crops. And the whole of North Vietnam, in this grim fighting, is making all-out efforts, day and night, to contribute to the liberation of the South, thus accomplishing its duty as the great rear of the great front-line. The tide of resistance against U.S. aggression for national salvation is surging up across the country.

Nobody, even the U.S. imperialists, can shake our people's determination. The more we fight, the stronger we become, and the greater our victories. McNamara had to concede that "it is unlikely that air attacks could affect it substantially". U.S. senator Robert Kennedy is of the opinion that "the air bombing has further strengthened the determination of the government and people of North Vietnam".

The shooting down of 2,000 U.S. planes is an all-sided and great victory of our armed forces and people, and an all-sided and strategic failure for the U.S. aggressors. This splendid victory and the glorious exploits of the South Vietnam armed forces and people who are defeating over one million U.S. and puppet troops prove the invincibility of people's war.

following figures. In 1964 before the U.S. air war of destruction was launched, there were in North Vietnam only two districts bringing in 5 tons of paddy per hectare a year, and some hundreds of 5-ton co-operatives. In 1965 the number of 5-ton districts rose to 7 and that of 5-ton co-operatives to 700. In 1966, there were 16 districts, more than 1,000 co-operatives, an entire province (Thai Binh) having overfulfilled the 5-ton target.

Animal husbandry kept on developing with a yearly increase of 2.7 per cent (Pigs, cattle, sheep, goats, etc., augmented by 6.4 per cent) reaching peak figures in 1966. All this helped to meet the growing food requirements of the people and the army.

Industry was one of the main targets of the U.S. aircraft which struck systematically at industrial areas, power stations, down to small handicraft enterprises. However, big enterprises were timely evacuated and production reorganized. The value of engineering output was up by 16 per cent in 1965 and

## HOW THE 2000th U.S. PLANE WAS DOWNED

THE meeting held by various batteries defending Ham Rong bridge to acclaim the resounding Winter 1966-1967 victory of the heroic South Vietnamese armed forces and people had hardly wound up when the rainy season came. The wind howled, the rain beat down on the guns and munitions, and pelted in the face of the gunners. But all the gun barrels of Company 7 were wheeled right and left at the bidding of the signal flag of deputy commander Dong Van Doan. I asked a regimen-

tal cadre who was working with the unit, "Why don't you let your men discontinue their drilling when it is raining?" He smiled and showed me a banner pasted on the wall of a hut at a gun site, with the following slogan freshly written, "Hard training to achieve new exploits, knock out the 2,000th U.S. plane before the end of the South Vietnam's Winter-Spring victory!"

It stopped raining and dark clouds began dissipating. Yet the sky remained gloomy and now and then some bands of hanging clouds sank low and drifted towards Ham Rong bridge. A thought flashed through our gunners' minds: the enemy could take advantage of these masses of clouds to sneak in for a raid. Just at that moment, a familiar outburst of fire was heard from the other side of the hill in the direction of Plateaus 1, 4 and 7 defending the bridge on the southern side. Meanwhile in the battle zone where we were standing, the range-finders had already picked up their targets, and comrade Thu was reporting distinctly to the commander. Very swiftly, the red flag in the hand of deputy company leader Dong Van Doan made a sharp cut downward. His firm order received, all gun barrels flashed, unleashing a barrage of intense fire which closed in upon the cloud plumes then coming within the company's firing range. It was a long time in the long-range 155 reconnaissance plane jerked upwards

(Continued page 6)

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North Vietnam agriculture is making big strides.





# IN THE WINTER 1966-SPRING 1967 CAMPAIGN 44 RAIDS ON U.S. AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

**THE L.A.F.: • Put Out of Action 8,700 Enemies (Including 7,437 G.I.s). • Destroyed and Damaged 968 Planes and Helicopters, 60 Cannons, 670 Military Vehicles. • Blew Up a Dozen Ammunition Dumps and Fuel Depots.**

**D**URING the last winter 1966-spring 1967 the L.A.F. made deep thrusts into the enemy bases, mounted 44 attacks on 25 vital positions and dealt him stinging blows. The Tan Son Nhut strategic air base (Saigon) boasted as invulnerable was assaulted

during two consecutive nights (December 4 and 5, 1966): 250 planes were destroyed and damaged, 600 G.I.'s wiped out and 200 tons of munitions blown up. The Da Nang air base (Quang Nam) was not spared either: 94 aircraft, 200 military vehicles were destroyed and

damaged, more than 1,000 Yankees put out of action. In the attacks on the enemy's airfields, the L.A.F. wiped out nearly 8,700 troops (including 7,437 Americans, most of them pilots, technicians and commanding officers), destroyed and damaged 968 planes, about 60

artillery pieces and 670 military vehicles, blast down scores of ammunition dumps and fuel depots containing more than ten million liters of petrol. Such big air bases as Tan Son Nhut, Bien Hoa, Da Nang, Chu Lai, Phu Bai, Pleiku, An Khe were hit, some two or three times.

Compared with the last dry season (1965-1966) the number of attacks in this dry season was up by over 39 times, that of aircraft destroyed was 231, that of U.S. troops wiped out in their bases was 4,581 men, and the war means destroyed increased by 50 per cent.



South Vietnam guerrillas going to the front

## JOHNSON'S PERPLEXITY AFTER A DRY SEASON OF BITTER FAILURE

**T**HE U.S. second "dry-season counter-offensive" in South Vietnam ended last May in a bloody failure. When the first rains were falling, the U.S. military command in Saigon had to admit the weeks of heaviest U.S. casualties in the ground war in South Vietnam and the month of greatest losses in planes in the air war against North Vietnam. The U.S. psychowar machine no longer boasted of the imaginary victories invented by the White House and the Pentagon. However, Johnson still ballyhooed that "there has been no change in U.S. objectives in Vietnam" and "our determination is just as strong as it has ever been" (statement at the May 18 press conference). He called on the American people to follow him "patiently" in his new military adventure. He has tried to create an optimistic atmosphere while his men are facing a bitter failure in Vietnam. To deceive public opinion and the American people, the U.S. warlords have resorted to truculent schemes to embellish the gloomy picture of their aggressive war in

Vietnam, or at least, to blur out the great victories of the South Vietnamese people.

One would remember that at a press conference held on November 20, 1966 in his ranch in Texas, Johnson claimed that the U.S. operations in South Vietnam continued to be victorious and that his forces were holding the initiative. But on that very day 30,000 G.I.'s took to flight from Tay Ninh and Operation Attilohore — the first U.S. operation in the dry season — turned out to be a shameful failure.

This fact could not recur so simply at the end of the dry season. When the Command of the South Vietnam Liberation Armed Forces made public its communiqué on the great victories recorded during Winter 1966 and Spring 1967, the U.S. propaganda organs in a perplexing manner, tried to blur out the content of the communiqué. They claimed it to be "exaggerated". This is quite understandable since the truth of the war exposed in the communiqué fully contrasts with what West morland was boasting about last April when back in the United States, he was trumpeting about the phony "victories" of the U.S. expeditionary troops in South Vietnam. He bragged that the dry-season "counter-offensive" was successful, that military operations were going on victoriously, that the "rural pacification" program was having a bright prospect, and so on and so forth.

But realities are posing ticklish problems to the White House and the Pentagon. Was the U.S. second dry-season "counter-offensive" in South Vietnam a victory or a failure? If it was victorious, why did Westmorland ask for an urgent troop increase? If the operations were successful, why did he sack his generals De Saussure, Jonathan Seaman and Lewis Walt who were commanding operations in the key

dismissed. If the U.S. troops held the initiative on all battlefields in South Vietnam, why did the U.S. military command in Saigon had to shift continually its troops from one place to another to cope with the activities of the L.A.F. If the situation improved why did the U.S. had to throw three brigades at a time into the First Corps area in an attempt to rescue the 70,000 U.S. marines? Meanwhile, the Thien-Ky clique was making a hue and cry about a big attack to be launched by the L.A.F. in the Western High Plateaux in the rainy season (Kyoje, June 3, 1967).

While the U.S. was running short of troops, the U.S. casualties in South Vietnam soared at a record rate. The U.S. military spokesman in Saigon admitted that in the four weeks of May (from April 30 to May 27) 9,142 G.I.'s were killed or wounded in South Vietnam. U.S. marines alone accounted for 5,044 put out of action. Of course, these figures are far below the truth. So, how can there be exaggeration and suspicion in the figure of 70,000 U.S. troops put out of action (10,000 per month on an average) in the seven-months from Winter to Spring released by the L.A.F. Command?

If the "rural pacification" program was progressing favorably, then why Lodge, Lansdale and Porter were called back home although they were entitled to the skies one year ago?

Though Johnson and his ilk were trying their best to bookwink the truth about the Vietnam war, rumors were spreading among the American people that the war in Vietnam had strategically failed since the N.F.L. still controlled 80 percent of the U.S. news and World Report, March 13, 1967. Johnson can never answer the question as to when the war ends; he can only speak of a "protracted" and "bloody" war.

(Continued page 3)

## CONTINUING THEIR VICTORIES IN THE WINTER - SPRING CAMPAIGN L.A.F. NEW BRILLIANT SUCCESSES

- ◎ 35 U.S. planes destroyed or damaged in an artillery shelling on Vinh Long airfield (night of May 21, 1967)
- ◎ More than 1,000 enemies, including 800 G.I.s, wiped out, 150 U.S. planes destroyed or damaged at Bien Hoa and Phuoc Vinh (May 11, 1967)
- ◎ U.S. logistic base at Bong Son pounded: 1,600,000 litres of petrol burnt, a great number of U.S. planes destroyed or damaged (June 6, 1967)

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